

THERAPY DOG CONTINUES TO WORK DESPITE HIS OWN ILLNESS



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REMEMBERING THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON 50 YEARS LATER USA WEEKEND

School board approves team changes

New superintendent reorganizes district's structure

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer



Killian

When Dr. Michael Meissen took the job as Plymouth-Canton's new superintendent last month, he told Board of Education members he would have a 90-day plan to enact his idea of the direction the district should take.

This week, he put in place the biggest piece of that plan to

date, reorganizing the responsibilities for the district's core team.

"The idea organizationally is to try and put in place a leadership system around the concept of a professional learning community," Meissen said. "In my mind, the organization

focuses on results for high levels of student achievement using a leadership structure that is collaborative and develops processes that deliver that high level of results."

Among the major changes: » Finance chief Brodie Killian has been promoted to deputy superintendent of business and operations, and will now oversee the district's facilities and operations (such as maintenance and food service). His right-hand, Vicki Amore,

has been named executive director of finance and accounting.

It's the biggest change in scope among core team members. He said his familiarity with the budget will make the decision-making process easier in his new areas of responsibility.

"It will be added responsibility, but from a decision process, the fact I'm closest to the budget will help develop quicker decisions and provides us

the ability to push information back down to the directors," Killian said.

» Monica Merritt, who had been executive director of human resources, has been promoted to assistant superintendent of human resources and labor relations.

» Jeanne Farina had her title adjusted to assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. She had been assistant

See CHANGES, Page A2

City boosters step up to rescue ice fest



Veteran carver Ted Wakar of Canton Township has attended many ice festivals in Plymouth. FILE PHOTO



The Plymouth Ice Festival typically draws large crowds to Kellogg Park, especially during live carving events. FILE PHOTO

'Heroes' sought to back Memorial

Runs aim to raise money to honor first responders

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

A fundraiser to support Wayne County's First Responders Memorial will give ordinary citizens the chance to become heroes of a different sort.

County officials, with assistance from Running Fit Inc., are planning the Heroes on Hines five-kilometer and half-marathon races for Saturday, Oct. 5, in Hines Park. The runs will raise money for the First Responders Memorial under construction in the park and will be followed by an official memorial dedication.

Both races will begin and end at Hines Drive and Haggerty Road, where the memorial is being built, and the course, in Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Northville, will include areas not normally open for events. An honor guard of public safety personnel and vehicles will line the course for its last mile.

The long run

The memorial, long sought by Robert Ficano, the county executive and a former county sheriff, is being built to honor

See MEMORIAL, Page A2

Previous organizer out of touch, owes money

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

With the Plymouth Ice Festival's executive producer missing in action, bills from this year's event unpaid and no plans for a festival next year, downtown Plymouth boosters recently put together a team to organize a show for January 2014.

Sam Walton, who produced four ice festivals beginning with the one in 2010, has not returned calls or emails in recent months, those who have worked with him say, and has outstanding debts from the 2013 festival, including a bill of around \$20,000 for city services, such as cleanup and public safety.

In Walton's absence, Tony Bruscato, operations director of the Downtown Development Authority, and Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, have enlisted people familiar with event production and fundraising to run the 32nd annual ice festival. The festival is planned for Kellogg Park and downtown streets for the second weekend in January.

They would rather Walton show up and lead the production, but "we felt we had to step in to make sure there was possibly going to be one," Bruscato said. He described his and Graff's role as "guiding the process," while others, including a fundraiser who previously worked with Walton, actually produce it.



Snowboarding has been an attraction at recent ice festivals in Plymouth; although some winter sports activities will be kept, organizers say they want the 2014 festival to focus on the ice carvings. FILE PHOTO

'Owes a lot'

Paul Raukar of Ice Dream Sculptures, where his wife, Tajana, is the chief ice-carver, said Walton owes him "a lot" of money for work they did for the 2013 show. Raukar said they made 65 single-block carvings for show sponsors.

"He never paid us," for the 2013 show, Raukar said Friday. "We had some problems the year before," but eventually got paid, he added.

"We're just disappointed after all the work we did for him," Raukar said. "He doesn't return phone calls or anything anymore."

Raukar wouldn't say exactly how much he and his wife are owed. Calls to Walton Thursday and Friday went to voice mail and were not returned.

Bruscato said the festival is an important event for downtown business owners, bringing people in during what is normally a slow retail month. He said he and Graff are confident the show will go on.

"We wouldn't make this effort if we didn't think we could actually pull off an ice festival," he said. The 2014 festival's budget will depend on fundraising, Bruscato said, estimating that a minimum of \$75,000 will be needed to stage "a really good festival."

Back to basics

Organizers, Bruscato said, want to get back to the basics of ice sculptures "so that when people get to the park, they'll be wowed by some of the spectacular sculptures." Some of the non-ice-carving activities, Bruscato said, could be dropped.

Bob Parent, owner of Sun and Snow, the downtown sporting goods shop, applauded the efforts toward a 2014 show and said his business "will do anything and everything we can to promote it." Sun and Snow has been a major festival sponsor, particularly of its winter sports events, like a cross country skiing course.

"The last guy that did it, we haven't heard from," Parent said. "We were concerned."

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Downtown bar could reopen with new owners

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

A downtown Plymouth bar and restaurant that closed more than six months ago under the threat of having its liquor license revoked could reopen, under new ownership and management, within a couple of months.

Jim and Jennifer Dales of Northville are planning to buy the former Rock Bar and Grill on Penniman and reopen it as The Post Plymouth Bistro, which would be a casual drinking and dining spot with a locally sourced menu, according to information filed with the city.

The Daleses will appear Monday before both the city's Liquor License Review Commission and the City Commission, which has a say on the

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Union carpenters build ramp for Canton member

'Brothers' pitch in to help couple in need

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Beverly Langham, a diabetic who has suffered multiple strokes and a heart attack, needed a handicap-accessible ramp added to the Canton Township home she shares with her husband, Chuck.

But Chuck, a heart attack survivor himself, knew he wasn't going to be able to build it.

So his brothers built it for him.

Not brothers in a sibling sense, but brothers in the "we're in this together" sense that often accompanies union membership and Langham, a recently retired member of the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights, found out he could count on his.

Many union members joined in this week, building a new deck and adding a ramp to the front of Langham's College Park Estates home.

"As a union, we are there to help our members, however and whenever we can," said union member Ed Musser, a Livonia resident who organized the volunteer effort. "They needed a ramp built, and we came out and gave them one."

Langham recently retired from Garden City-based International Extrusion, which Musser said donated "about half the cost" of the \$3,000 project. Canton-based Mans Lumber gave workers "a great discount" on the lumber needed for the 6- by 12-foot deck and accompanying ramp.

The project, under the auspices of the union's executive financial treasurer Michael Jackson,

included volunteers from Local 1045 (interior systems), Local 1234 (residential local) and Local 687 (commercial carpenters).

The project, and others like it, are part of the Council's mission to help in the community. Charlie Jackson, the treasurer's brother, figures he's worked on some 200 decks in the last 20 years.

A 40-year member of the union, Jackson said volunteering for such projects is a no-brainer.

"We're supposed to help each other, I really believe that," Jackson said. "They don't allow us to do it, they encourage us to help. This is special to me, because

(Langham) is one of our members."

It's special to Langham, too, because Beverly can no longer negotiate the stairs. He hopes to get her a motorized roundabout to allow her easier access to their home.

On Thursday, he was very appreciative of the effort being put forth for him.

"After they set the boards (the night before), Bev sat out on the deck for about two hours," Langham said. "I feel good about what they're doing. It means a lot to us."

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Volunteers from a variety of locals of the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights helped put a ramp and a new deck on the home of a retired union member from Canton.



Chuck and Beverly Langham appreciated the effort by union volunteers to build a new deck and ramp on their Canton Township home.

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Backpack drive benefits schools

By Brad Kadrich
 Staff Writer

In a couple of weeks, thousands of students in the Plymouth-Canton school district, as in districts across the state, will begin the 2013-14 school year.

And thanks to school supply drives conducted by organizations such as the Plymouth Salvation Army, the United Way and others, the needy among them will be able to start the year with a new backpack and a set of school supplies.

The Salvation Army is conducting its annual "Back 2 School Blitz" and provided the beginning of donations earlier this week.

"The opening of a school year is an exciting time and it can also create some pressures," said Dr. Michael Meissen, Plymouth-Canton's superintendent. "To have partners who can provide support to families is really essential. The board has as a strong priority for community partnerships and the Salvation Army and the good things they do for our students is very important."

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps - in partnership with the Plymouth-Canton and Van



Dr. Michael Meissen, superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, accepts a donation of backpacks from Maj. Keith Bailey, the corps officer for the Plymouth Salvation Army.

Buren school districts, as well as many local churches, service clubs and private donors - launches a school supply drive Aug. 19. The drive seeks to collect school supplies and backpacks for K-12 students for the upcoming school year.

Volunteers will be on hand at the Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main, in Plymouth, to accept do-

nations 1-6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24. The supplies will then be sorted and packed into backpacks for distribution to families Tuesday, Aug. 27.

Needed supplies include backpacks (particularly for older students), binders, supply cases/bags, colored pencils, markers, wide-ruled paper and one-subject note books, highlighters,

pens (red, black and blue), rounded-tip scissors, No. 2 pencils, rulers, glue bottles, glue sticks, composition books and folders.

In addition to school supplies, the Army will be accepting donations of new socks and underwear that will be distributed through the Plymouth-Canton Community Clothing Bank, a partner of the Salvation Army throughout the year. Monetary gifts will be used to purchase Payless gift cards that will be distributed to each child so they can purchase new school shoes.

"We are seeing and hearing of clients returning to work, albeit at a much lower rate or at reduced hours," said Laurie Aren, director of family and community ministries at the Plymouth Salvation Army. "We also know that many continue to struggle as unemployment benefits run out or as folks accept pay cuts to maintain their jobs. Preparing kids to go back to school can be very expensive, so this is a practical way to support our families and students as they return to school."

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Elson Liu, Plymouth-Canton's new director of integrated technology systems, shakes hands with Board of Education members and administrators after his hiring was approved Tuesday night.

District gets new technology chief

By Brad Kadrich
 Staff Writer

With the approval of the May bond initiative, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators are faced with the daunting task of empowering students with a 1:1 technology upgrade that will put an iPad or other learning device in the hands of some 18,000 students and 1,100 teachers.

And now they have the guy to lead the effort.

Elson Liu has been hired by the district as its first director of integrated technology systems. Liu's main job: Implementing the technology initiative included in the \$114.4 million bond proposal.

Liu replaces Jim Casteel, who retired over the summer.

Monica Merritt, assistant superintendent of human resources and labor relations, said Liu "can build a culture of innovation" in Plymouth-Canton schools.

"We have all this technology being proposed and we needed someone to help teachers bridge that gap to 21st century learning," Merritt said.

Merritt said staffers

were in the process of filling a couple of technology specialist positions when Casteel announced his retirement. That process stopped, she said, while the team sought out a new leader.

Merritt said the posting got 21 responses, including four from internal candidates. Nine of them were interviewed and three were brought back for a second interview before the team settled, in "a unanimous decision," Merritt said, on Liu.

Liu has been director of technology for Brighton schools since 2008. He helped plan an \$88 million bond and has conducted pilot projects worth some \$500,000 to evaluate new technologies.

Before Brighton, Liu spent eight years with Howell Public Schools.

Liu earned a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a master's degree in educational technology from MIT.

"He has everything we need to lead us forward with this dynamic team and this vision," Merritt said.

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District offers preschool class for 4-year-olds

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Early Childhood Department is offering a tuition-free program for 4-year-old children.

The classes offer inquiry-based learning in an exploratory program where children use classroom materials to explore, discover and

learn! The classrooms offer an environment that nurtures language development and focus on kindergarten readiness with close ties to the district's kindergarten curriculum.

This tuition-free preschool program runs from September through June. Classes are offered

Monday through Thursday, with full- and part-day options. The full-day program is six hours per day. The half-day option is three hours per day. Morning and afternoon sessions are available.

Classes are free to eligible families who are residents of the Plymouth-Canton Communi-

ty School District. Children must be 4 years old by Nov. 1. All tuition-free classes are located at Allen Elementary, 11100 Haggerty Road, Plymouth.

Call the Early Childhood Office at 734-416-6190 for more information or visit <http://earlychildhood.pccs.k12.mi.us>.

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Zoo hosts Senior Day on Sept. 4

Plenty of activities planned for annual celebration

Senior citizens living in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties are invited to enjoy a day at the Detroit Zoo on Senior Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Seniors age 62 and older and a caregiver will receive free admission, parking and rides on the Tauber Family Railroad.

Senior Day also will feature live music, tractor train tours, bingo, a senior resource area and zookeeper talks highlighting some of the zoo's senior animal residents. In addition, Blue Care Network and the SilverSneakers Fitness Program are pairing up to offer a free group exercise class, exercise demos and functional fitness assessments.

The fall Senior Day is one of two free days for tri-county seniors held annually at the Detroit Zoo in appreciation for voter approval in 2008 of a ballot proposal to fund the zoo.

The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. Situated on 125 acres, the Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak.

The Detroit Zoo is open 362 days a year, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through Labor Day - with extended hours until 8 p.m. Wednesdays during July and August - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the day after Labor Day through October and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March.

Admission is \$14 for adults age 15 to 61, \$12 for senior citizens age 62 and older and \$9 for children 2 to 14. Children under 2 are free. The Belle Isle Nature Zoo is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday April through October and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March. It's closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission is free.

For more information, call 248-541-5717 or visit www.detroitzoo.org.

Woehlke Palooza aims to help fallen firefighter's family

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Some well-known musical acts will take the stage Friday and Saturday, Aug. 23-24, when U.S. 12 and the Wayne-Westland Professional Fire Fighters. Local 1279 host the first ever Woehlke Palooza.

The palooza benefits the family of Brian Woehlke, the Wayne-Westland firefighter who died May 8 in the line of duty. The event will feature music, firefighter events and family activities.

"It's a celebration of Brian Woehlke," said John Goci of U.S. 12. "Brian used to hang out here with his best friend. His friend still comes in here, but it's hard."

The event is being held in and outside U.S. 12 at Sims and Second Street in downtown Wayne, rain or shine, beginning at 5 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday.

Activities Friday include a corn hole tournament, firefighters auction and beer pong. Food and drinks also will be available. The music will start at 6 p.m. and feature the Thrill Billies, followed by Ty Stone and headliner LoCash Cowboys.

On Saturday, the palooza gets started at noon and features a variety of family activities. There will be kids' contests, including ice cream eating, Hula Hoop and musical chairs, clowns, face painting, a bounce house, dunk tank and firefighters competitions like water ball, rolling water ball and combat challenge.

Firefighter events

Also planned is a fire station cook-off and tactical demonstrations by firefighters. Food, drinks and a DJ also will be available all day inside and outside on the patio. WRIF-FM (101.1) will broadcast live Saturday from U.S. 12.

Inside, the Social Bandits, Juke Box Heroes, Pistol Day Parade and ESC4P3 - The Journey Tribute Band will perform, beginning at 6 p.m.

"It'll be a lot of fun, there will be a lot of family things," Goci said. "It'll be a great



A two-day event at U.S. 12 in Wayne will benefit the family of Wayne-Westland firefighter Brian Woehlke, who died in a May 8 fire.



Detroit-based rock band Pistol Day Parade will perform at Woehlke Palooza.



Among the performers at Woehlke Palooza will be the LoCash Cowboys, who combine soul, rock, funk, pop, hip-hop and gospel in a high-energy version of contemporary country.

time."

Goci and the firefighters union have been working on the benefit for about six weeks. They have been able to "get some good sponsors" to help bring in some national acts like Ty Stone, who has toured nationally and is affiliated with Kid Rock. LoCash Cowboys also have written several No. 1 hits, Goci said.

"We've gotten some anonymous sponsors and we need to nail down a few more," Goci said. "Now we're focusing on promoting it. Friday will be country, Saturday will be rock with the amazing Journey tribute band."

"I really hope we get 6,000 people. Our goal is to generate 100 percent of the proceeds for the family fund."

JOHN GOCI
event organizer
firefighters."

Helping the family

Numerous fundraisers have been held since Woehlke died in the May 8 fire. He had been with the department for 10 months when he responded to a fire at Marvaso's Italian Grille and Electric Stick just after 8 a.m. A mayday distress radio call was received from him about 9:30 a.m. and his body was recovered from the collapsed building about 12:40 p.m.

It was determined that he died of smoke and soot inhalation after became trapped in debris from the collapsed businesses. He was the first firefighter to fall in the line of duty in the city of Westland Fire Department's 47-year history.

Fire investigators have yet to rule on a cause for the fire at the popular restaurant and gaming room. In July, Wayne-Westland Fire Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal John Adams had said he was waiting for another engineering report before completing his investigation.

At the time, Adams said that there was no evidence of accelerants found at the scene.

Goci is hoping the palooza becomes a yearly thing. It's being held on the weekend that the city used to hold Wayne Wheelfest, before canceling it because of financial problems.

"I'm praying for good weather. I hope all of the rain gets out of the way before Friday," Goci said. "That weekend used to be Wayne Wheelfest and from what I remember, it never rained."

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Mom pens book to honor daughter with disabilities

Livonia author hoping to encourage other families facing adversity

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Doctors were so sure Jennifer Siewicki of Livonia was going to die when they sent her home from the hospital at 2 months of age that they didn't teach her parents how to perform CPR.

Jennifer, now 29, was born with pulmonary hypertension, among other congenital abnormalities that were later diagnosed as CHARGE Syndrome. She couldn't eat or breathe on her own and had failure to thrive. Doctors predicted she would never walk, talk or learn.

But Jennifer was determined to live and her parents were equally determined not to let her die. "She never gave up so we couldn't. She was our motivation; we could see it in her face," said her mother Carolyn Siewicki.

Jennifer not only learned how to walk, she downhill skis and water skis with Michigan Adaptive Sports. Though she is mildly cognitively impaired, she learned to read at 8, graduated from Livonia Stevenson High School with a regular diploma and completed three years of coursework in a special program at Oakland University, where she had her own radio show.

Carolyn Siewicki published a book in June about her daughter titled *The Joys of Jennifer: Finding Success for Your Child with CHARGE Syndrome or Other Challenges*.

Each other's hero

"I wrote it to honor my daughter," Carolyn Siewicki said. "She is my hero. She survived and did far beyond even that. She has a list of accom-

plishments a mile long."

Carolyn said she wanted to encourage parents of other children born with physical and cognitive challenges and also let the public know how capable people with disabilities are.

Jennifer, who Carolyn describes as "a wonderful funny young woman with a sense of humor that won't quit," said she thinks it's awesome her mom wrote a book about her and thinks of her as her hero.

But, she said, the real hero is her mother. "I think she's the best mom in the whole wide world," Jennifer said.

Carolyn, 62, did not know Jennifer, her

youngest of three children, had problems until she was born April 30, 1984, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

"She was purple and could not breathe," Carolyn said. "She didn't cry." A team from Children's Hospital in Detroit arrived to whisk her away.

She was in the hospital for two months before being discharged. While the doctors doubted she would survive, let alone thrive, the Siewickis were certain she would improve once they got her home with them and her two older brothers, "who love her to pieces."

A visiting nurse taught the Siewickis how to perform CPR. A couple of days later, she stopped breathing, her parents performed CPR, then they took her back to Children's, where she stayed until September before going home again. At that point, doctors



Jennifer Siewicki, second from right, at the recent CHARGE Syndrome Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., where her mother did a book signing.

advised her parents to place her in a nursing home.

Instead, the Siewickis took her back home, where she had around-the-clock nursing care. By Christmas of that year, Jennifer had started to thrive.

"She's a very determined person," Carolyn said. "She's got a lot of heart and determination; I can't even explain her spirit. She sees herself as anybody else."

Faith sustained them

Carolyn said their faith helped get them through struggles like Jennifer's learning to eat after being on a feeding tube for the first three years of her life. She would eat, throw up, eat, throw up and then eat again.

Or Jennifer's learning to read. When Jennifer wasn't making progress in school, Carolyn ordered Hooked On Phonics and the two spent an entire summer working on the learn-to-read system.

The Bible verse hanging on their refrigerator, Proverbs 16:3, was an inspirational reminder:

"Entrust your works to the Lord, and your plans will succeed." Jennifer's motto always was, "I can try."

Jennifer is now back

at home, after living on her own while attending OU, looking for work, caring for her cat and keeping her family laughing with her one-

liners. She hopes to find a job working with animals or in the film industry.

Carolyn said she would tell parents with a child with cognitive and physical challenges to never give up. "You have to have hope, and to be strong and to reach out to your friends and family," she said. "It really does take a community."

As for Jennifer's advice? "Stay away from clowns," she joked. I had a bad experience once. And don't mix peas with mashed potatoes. You don't even want to try it."

The Joys of Jennifer can be purchased online at carolynsiewickibooks.com and Amazon.com. The book is also available for purchase at The Next Book Store and Bistro in downtown Northville.

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Ex-Marine recalls service of Staff Sgt. Reckless – a horse

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

A local family is recalling a famous horse named Staff Sgt. Reckless who played a part in the Korean War.

The Charles Batherson family traveled to the Washington, D.C., area late last month to pay tribute to the horse, which is now memorialized with a new statue in Quantico, Va.

In addition to Batherson and his wife Barbara, who live in Westland, daughter Amy Frazee, a Garden City resident, attended along with son Chuck and his wife Anne from Greensboro, N.C., and daughter Pat McKelvy, a Florida resident.

"Reckless joined the company in May 1953," Batherson, a Marine veteran, said of the military horse. "She was good."

Reckless, a chestnut-colored mare, joined the U.S. Marine Corps in October 1952 as a pack horse.

The Batherson family attended the dedication to Staff Sgt. Reckless at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. Reckless was a horse that was so heroic

during the Korean War that the U.S. Marines promoted her to staff sergeant, an honor never before or since bestowed on an animal. She was not a mascot. She was an official military NCO.

60th anniversary

The dedication event this year was tied in to the 60th celebration of the end of the Korean War on Saturday, July 27. It was part of a three-day event which drew 3,000 people.

A plaque and photo were dedicated in her honor at Camp Pendleton Marine Base. A statue of her was dedicated July 26.

Batherson was a sergeant in the Marines during the Korean War, with Reckless.

"Reckless was very important to the Marines," he said.

She is a unique example of an animal that held official rank in a branch of the United States military. Originally purchased for \$250 from a Korean boy who needed money to buy an artificial leg for his sister, she served with the Rifle Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, Fifth Marine Division and the 1st Ma-

rine Division.

Batherson served in the Anti-Tank Company. Reckless was originally a race horse at a race track, he said. She was about two years old when purchased.

The highlight of her nine-month military career came in late March 1953, during fighting around Vegas Hill when, in a single day, she made 51 solo trips to resupply multiple front line units. Amidst battle, the horse carried ammunition up a hill for 35 miles. On her return trip back, she brought back the wounded and dead.

She was injured twice during the course of duty.

'She was a Marine'

"Most horses are skittish," Barbara Batherson said. "No horse did what she did. She thought that she was a Marine."

Batherson recalled that Reckless preferred to hang out with the guys rather than stay in a corral.

"She liked beer," Batherson said. "She did a lot of crazy things. She wasn't a horse, she was a Marine."

During the cold weather, she would go inside the tents and lie down

near the stove.

Reckless was featured in *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Life* magazine.

"She was on the *Ed Sullivan Show*," said Frazee, who grew up in Garden City. "The original tapes have all been destroyed."

She was promoted to sergeant about a month before the war ended in 1953.

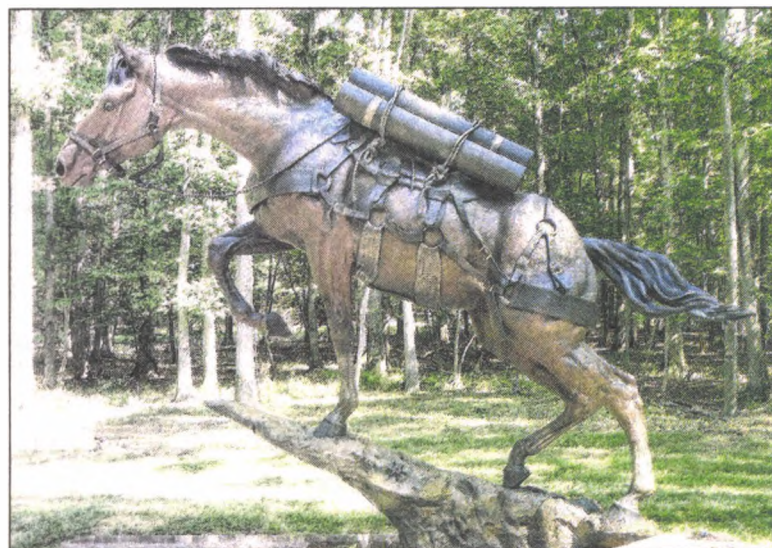
Reckless was retired and brought after the war to the United States, where she was officially promoted to staff sergeant in 1959. Reckless gave birth to four foals in America and died in May 1968.

"She had a good life," Batherson said.



Charles Batherson, daughter Amy Frazee, and wife, Barbara Batherson, show off a photo of Reckless in the Marine Room at Batherson's Westland condo. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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A statue of Staff Sgt. Reckless was dedicated in July in Quantico. She is shown carrying ammunition as she did when she worked for the Marines during the Korean War.

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The Environmental Quality Co. in Wayne is partnering with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Mercury Collection Project.

The project is an ongoing effort to collect and properly recycle mercury. Small and large business operations have traditionally been overlooked during mercury collection events. The project's objective is to address this issue and promote a long-term solution for easily collecting and recycling of mercury. The program is free to anyone in Michigan — residents included.

The program is easy. Upon request, EQ will send a free collection bucket with a shipping box to your door via

common carrier. Each bucket will contain the easy-to-follow return instructions. Once the bucket is filled with the mercury containing device or devices, just simply apply the return label, provided with your bucket, securely tape the box and place it where the designated shipper normally picks up your packages.

EQ will facilitate the recycling of the mercury containing devices. Most mercury items can be returned through this mail-back program. Some examples of eligible mercury containing devices include thermometers, thermostats, gauges with silver colored liquid inside, dental amalgam and hydrometers.

The project ends Sept. 30. Call 734-547-2517 or email mercury-

bucket@eqonline.com to order a free collection container and instruction kit.

More information can be found at greatlakesrestoration.us/ or on the EQ website at www.eqonline.com.

The Environmental Quality Co. is a fully integrated environmental services and waste management organization based in Wayne. It implements innovative technology and service solutions that minimize waste volumes, reduce costs and protect the environment.

EQ owns ISO certified treatment, disposal and recycling facilities and manages an extensive line of remediation, industrial cleaning and total waste management services throughout the United States.

Picnic fires up drug awareness need

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

A group trying to raise money to open a substance abuse treatment center in South Lyon is a couple of steps closer to its goal. Organizers are hoping this year's fundraising picnic should do a lot to bring them even closer.

The Constanino Del Signore Foundation is hosting its second annual Tino's Farm Family Picnic fundraiser from noon to 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 25, at Sweet Acres Farm, 55880 Eight Mile Road, in Lyon Township. Tickets are \$10 per person and children 5 and younger will be admitted for free. Barbecue chicken, pulled pork, hamburgers, corn on the cob and hot dogs will be served. No alcohol will be allowed.

Participants will be entertained by the Detroit R&B band The Infatuations, three other bands, a clown, pony rides, hay rides, a bounce house, kids games, balloon artist "The Ballonatic," bocce ball, a bow shooting demonstration with lessons for those who want to learn to shoot a bow, 50/50 raffles and the CDS Foundation's crap shoot for a chance to win a flat-screen WiFi TV.

Live auction items include a dinner for two at Bacco Ristorante in Southfield and an afternoon sailboat cruise and dinner from the Detroit Yacht Club.

Picnic proceeds will go toward opening a substance abuse transition facility in South Lyon in cooperation with Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Botsford Hospital Foundation and Safari Club International S.E. Chapter of Michigan Bowhunters.

"Our first goal of \$500,000 is now one-third complete, within this past year," said Richard Asztalos, CDS Foundation president.

Drug awareness

While raising money is a focus of the picnic, the real emphasis is on spreading the message about the importance of drug awareness, Asztalos said. Representatives from Livonia Save Our Youth will make a presentation during the picnic and host a booth providing information.

"Once a family member is in trouble with a substance addiction, the whole family suffers," he added. "We are in an epidemic of substance abuse and lives are being lost from brain damage, suicides and overdoses, resulting in death. Learn what you can do for those you love. Find out what a pharm-party is. Learn what to ask your children. Parents need to be aware and sometimes they're burying their heads in the sand. It's not their kid, it's the neighbors' kid."

A pharm-party, according to Asztalos, is when kids steal pills subscribed to parents, grandparents or others. The pills are put in a bowl and everyone takes what they want, often-times not knowing what they have.

The CDS Foundation's focus on drug awareness began after Tino Del Signore died in a tractor accident three years ago on the farm.

Del Signore, the 47-year-old son of John and Lina Del Signore, owners of Laurel Manor in Livonia, was known for his generosity and philanthropic work, Asztalos said.

The Aug. 25 fundraiser is intended to carry on

that legacy. Tino Del Signore was among a group of people who started CDS Foundation 20 years ago. Since then, \$475,000 has been donated to various causes like St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Garden City Hospital, Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Angela Hospice in Livonia, Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit and other facilities, as well as the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, which Tino founded. No money has gone to CDS Foundation members, Asztalos said.

The foundation began when a church in the province of L'Aquila in Abruzzo, Italy, needed a roof. Foundation organizers raised the needed money and decided a lot of other organizations could use help in the United States and throughout southeast Michigan.

CDS board of directors plan to use the Sweet Acres house and 37-acre farm as a substance abuse and transition center for between eight and 10 people, likely teens, recovering from substance abuse, Asztalos said.

Almost there

Anyone interested in giving additional foundation support can purchase a gold sponsorship for \$500, silver sponsorship for \$250 and bronze sponsorship for \$100.

For more information, go to www.cdsfoundation.net. Tax deductible donations can be sent to CDS Foundation, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

Call Laurel Manor at (734) 462-0770 for picnic tickets. Tickets will also be sold at the event.

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50 years later ...

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST KEEPS WORKING TO FULFILL KING'S DREAM

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Reasther Everett would love to tell Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that his dream has come true, the promise fulfilled but, sadly, that hasn't happened in the years since the late civil rights activist called for an end to racism in America.

Everett watched on TV as Dr. King delivered his now famous *I Have a Dream* speech Aug. 28, 1963, before the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. She was a bridesmaid in a wedding in New York and she found she couldn't pull herself away from the TV.

Fifty years later, the Westland resident remembers the speech gave her chills. It also gave her hope of a better tomorrow.

"I think we thought it would be different," she said. "He kept the faith and gave us faith that it could happen. We had a good start, but we never made it to the finish line."

Everett is no stranger to segregation. She grew up in a black community in North Carolina and attended a black high school. She remembers joining students in walking out of school, but they weren't protesting segregation, they were demanding "equalization." They wanted the same things afforded students at the white high school.

Promises were made. The black high school was closed and those students were moved to the white high school. But it wasn't integration. The white students left for another school.

"When the white kids got new books, we got



Reasther Everett has many pieces of art that remind her of the struggle blacks have faced and still face in America. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

their old ones," she said. "When our football team was the North Carolina champions, we still weren't allowed to play a game in the white stadium."

'Something special'

There were segregated water fountains and bathrooms and blacks had their own community and their own businesses. They were doing well until blacks were allowed to go into the white communities. Everyone wanted to go to the better stores.

"We really wanted to use those white bathrooms, but what we found when they were integrated was that those bathrooms were just as dirty as ours," she said. "We had thought that they would be something really special."

Everett finished high school in the Brownsville

neighborhood of Brooklyn, N.Y. Her mother had gone to the predominantly Jewish community to work as a live-in housekeeper.

"I went to pretty much a Jewish high school," Everett said. "Brownsville was a good community. I never heard anything about my color, but a couple of times I was told I wasn't Jewish."

Her activism carried over into her adult years. She joined King in the Walk for Freedom in Detroit on June 14, 1963. In a speech that day, King spoke about his dream of equality and brotherhood between the races. Parts of that speech were in his speech two weeks later in Washington, D.C., including his dream "that one day little white children and little Negro children will be able to join hands as brothers and sisters."

brought integration to the tidy neighborhood.

Everett still walks door-to-door to talk to neighbors and welcome the newcomers, reminding them of the rules. Yes, she says, she may put pressure on them, but she wants to know that when they leave her neighborhood, they leave it the way they found it.

"I have no qualms about telling them they can't do that," she said. "I feel good knowing that I have made a change and the change is for the better. When I see an injustice, I work to change it. I hope I have made a difference in this world."

She also shares the wisdom of her years with her great-grandchildren, helping them to see what still needs to be done to achieve King's dream. She laments that "we

have to go through the things some of us had to, they can grow to be anything they want to be."

'More hidden'

And the battles of the 1950s and 1960s continue. While it may look like segregation is gone, today it is "more hidden," Everett said.

"We talk the talk, but we don't walk the walk," she said. "We say things, but we don't accomplish them and the excuses we use as to why don't hold water. We have the haves and the have nots and it's hard to understand why we still have the have nots."

Looking back on the watershed moment in the history of the civil rights moment, Everett notes that there's still so much to be done and so little time to do it, but "by the grace of God" it will get done in her lifetime.

She also believes that Dr. King would be "really disappointed" that his dream hasn't been fulfilled and "in all of us for what has happened."

"Some of the things he talked about were a dream and some of the hopes came true, but for every three steps we've taken forward, we've taken two back," she said. "I started working in civil rights when I was 13 and I continue to be an activist because I want to be a part of that dream coming true."

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Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

'Living the dream'

By the time King made his iconic speech, Everett and her husband Arnell, a World War II veteran, were living the dream. They were raising their children in their own home in Westland's historic Annapolis Park Subdivision. They were among the first homeowners in the community built in the city's south end for 1950s so "colored veterans could buy a brick house."

"This was the first chance to make a difference," Everett said. "We stayed. This wasn't our starter home, it was our homestead."

Everett was room mother at her children's school and active in politics, serving as a precinct delegate. She registered voters and, when she had to, took on city hall. The community has changed over the years and mixed race couples, Hispanics and Arab families have

"We talk the talk, but we don't walk the walk. We say things, but we don't accomplish them and the excuses we use as to why don't hold water."

REASTHER EVERETT

She recently asked her 15-year-old grandson to tell her what he knew about civil rights. His response was to say King's name.

"I told him, 'That's just a name, what do you know?'" she said. "I was surprised that he didn't know anything. Many of our children really don't know either. As family members, we have to teach our children to be proud and see to it that they got the best education possible. They don't

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In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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Garden City resident Susan Suboch pushes a cart full of items bought from Menards. ALL PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Allen Park resident Dean Bacheller leaves the store.



Several customers walk through the Menards parking lot Friday.



Tiffany Svoboda came from Ypsilanti to shop the new Menards in Livonia.

store was a good experience and she said she'd gladly return. "Absolutely," she said.

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Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Menards finally opens to much fanfare

Large crowds fill store on first day

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Susan Suboch has driven by the new Menards home improvement store several times. So when she saw the sign announcing it was open, she and her husband decided to check it out.

She ended up walking out with a brand-new mailbox and humming bird feeders for her family's home in Garden City.

"It has a large variety of things to choose from," she said.

Menards opened Tuesday at 17201 Middlebelt. The home improvement store sells a wide array of items, including light

fixtures, lumber and tools.

James Larkin, the store's manager, said he's surprised at the number of customers that have walked through the door. The parking lot Tuesday was filled.

"I did not expect it to be that large the very first day," he said. "I was hoping for a great turnout, which we did receive."

Wayne County's first Menards

The store is the first Menards to open in Wayne County and one of two in the Detroit area. Another Menards opened in the spring up in Chesterfield Township, while another opened last month in Port Huron. The hardware giant has more than 270 stores in 14 states.

Larkin, who has worked at other Menards

locations in Bay City and Jackson, said it's been great working in a store so close to the urban center surrounding Detroit.

"We've gotten a lot of great feedback from guests," he said. "They're happy we're here; we're happy to be here."

The store continues to accept employment applications. Menards officials would not disclose how many employees the store has.

One of the biggest sections that has seen a lot of items get pulled off the shelf is the grocery area, something Larkin said is uncommon in other home improvement stores.

A grand opening event is scheduled for Aug. 24, complete with local celebrities signing autographs and sales on several items throughout the store, Larkin said.

Suboch said the trip she recently took to the

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12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:10
FRI/SAT LS 11:20
- KICK-ASS 2 (R)
11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:45
- JOBS (PG-13)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
- ELYSIUM (R)
11:40, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 11:55
- PLANES (PG)
11:10, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:00
- PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (PG)
11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35
- WE'RE THE MILLERS (R)
11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
FRI/SAT LS 11:55

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Accounting problems remain for Dillon funds

Michigan state treasurer's campaign accounts show large discrepancies

By Paul Egan
Gannett Michigan

LANSING — Three campaign finance accounts controlled by Michigan Treasurer Andy Dillon are in disarray, with more than \$100,000 not properly accounted for from Dillon's 2010 campaign for governor, according to published reports.

Dillon and his campaign treasurer want to close the Andy Dillon for Michigan campaign fund he used for the governor's race, but Secretary of State officials won't sign off on the closure because of financial discrepancies.

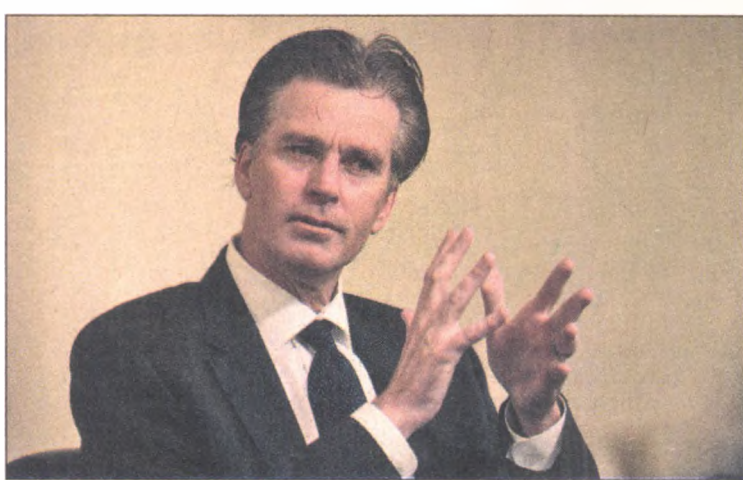
No one has alleged improper activity, but the Secretary of State normally requires a campaign fund to reduce its balance to zero through allowable expenditures before the account can be dissolved and a requirement for ongoing financial reporting ends.

Minor discrepancies — sometimes due to unreported items such as small amounts of interest earned on deposits — aren't uncommon when dissolving a campaign fund. But discrepancies involving thousands of dollars are rare, Secretary of State spokesman Fred Woodhams said last week.

Two of Dillon's three funds have unexplained accounting errors of about \$105,000 and \$8,900, respectively. The third fund was more than three months behind on its required reporting until last week, when the treasurer filed two past-due reports after he was contacted by the *Detroit Free Press*. The committee was assessed \$775 in late filing fees.

"Treasurer Dillon is aware of the issues, one of which is technological in nature," Dillon spokesman Terry Stanton said. "Each is being addressed by the respective committee treasurer who is responsible for reporting and filings, and the accounts will be closed."

As state treasurer, Dillon oversees tens of billions of dollars in state funds and investments, as well as the financial accounting of Michigan



State Treasurer Andy Dillon has had some trouble with his campaign finances from his run for governor. PATRICIA BECK | DETROIT FREE PRESS

cities such as Detroit.

Among the reasons the state requires regular reporting by candidate committees and political action committees is to assure donation limits aren't exceeded and that fund money is spent only in accordance with state law. Once a campaign is over, leftover money must be disposed of in certain ways, such as donating it to a charity or transferring it to another committee.

Dillon lost the 2010 Democratic nomination to Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and later joined the Republican administration of Gov. Rick Snyder, who beat Bernero in the general election. The biggest accounting problem relates to the committee Dillon used for his gubernatorial bid.

In a notarized affidavit Dillon personally swore and signed, filed with the Secretary of State on Feb. 10, 2012, Dillon asked to close the account. "The committee requests the ability to dissolve with the understanding that the ending balance on the 2012 Annual Campaign Statement is inaccurate and only represents an unexplained error in accounting," his statement said.

At that time, Dillon said the fund showed a balance on paper of about \$4,700, but had only about \$27 in its bank account.

Seven months later, in September 2012, Dillon's treasurer Michael Maher filed a corrected 2012 report showing the amount of money that couldn't be accounted for was actually much larger — about \$105,000.

"We have only a few dollars in our checking account," Dillon campaign official Michelle Maher wrote in a Jan. 31 email to the secretary of state.

"We think this is an uploading error," Maher said of the reported \$105,000 balance. "We are working to resolve and correct this error and ask that we are given a reporting waiver until this is possible."

Michael Maher said he believes the biggest part of the discrepancy — \$100,000 — relates to a compatibility issue between the accounting system the campaign used and the system to receive reports electronically. Somehow the numbers are within less than \$5,000 of balancing in the campaign's system, but shows a nearly \$105,000 discrepancy when uploaded to the state system, he said.

"It's a technical dilemma," and "the two parties can't figure out how to make it go away," he said. "We can't figure out what the next step ought to be."

A second fund, Andy Dillon for State Representative, was dissolved by the Secretary of State in April — despite showing an \$8,900 balance on paper and a zero bank account balance. Again, in that case, Dillon swore an affidavit attributing the discrepancy to an unexplained accounting error.

"No person, including me as candidate or the treasurer Daniel Mahoney, improperly benefited from this account and its ending balance variance," Dillon said in the affidavit.

STATE TREASURER'S CAMPAIGN FUNDS IN DISARRAY

Campaign funds controlled by Michigan Treasurer Andy Dillon have been plagued with reporting problems, and more than \$100,000 is currently unaccounted for in the funds.

FUND: ANDY DILLON FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Purpose: Was used to fund Dillon's campaigns as a Democratic state representative from Redford.

Fund balance on paper: \$8,914.53

Fund balance in bank: 0

Issue: The Secretary of State allowed the committee to be dissolved earlier this year despite the financial discrepancy, which Dillon described as "an unexplained error in accounting."

FUND: ANDY DILLON FOR MICHIGAN

Purpose: Was used to fund Dillon's unsuccessful Democratic bid for governor in 2010.

Fund balance on paper: \$104,871.05

Fund balance in bank: "A few dollars."

SOURCES: Michigan Secretary of State's Office; Detroit Free Press research
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Issue: The Secretary of State has refused to allow the committee to be dissolved because of the financial discrepancy. Dillon campaign officials say the large balance is a computer or accounting error, but they have not been able to resolve it.

FUND: DILLON LEADERSHIP FUND

Purpose: Dillon used it to support various candidates when he was a state representative and House speaker.

Fund balance: \$4,667

Issue: The committee filed two overdue reports on Friday, after the treasurer was contacted by the Free Press. The Secretary of State assessed late reporting fines of \$775.

Woodhams said officials allowed Dillon's state representative committee to dissolve because the amount of the discrepancy was much smaller than the one in his gubernatorial account. Typically, "you need to get to zero to dissolve," Woodhams said.

Woodhams said the Secretary of State has granted Dillon's gubernatorial committee a reporting waiver to allow time to sort out the numbers but will not yet allow it to be dissolved.

"We're continuing to work with the committee to resolve the ending balance number so it can be dissolved," Woodhams said. "From the last communication from the committee, it looks like they're working with their software vendor to resolve technological problems hindering the committee from reaching a zero balance and allowing its dissolution."

A third Dillon fund, the Dillon Leadership Fund political action committee, filed two overdue reports last week. The reports were due April 25 and July 25, respectively.

Mahoney said he has changed jobs and relocated

since the fund was set up. He blamed poor communication between him and the secretary of state about where notices for required filings need to get sent.

However, "I ... need to do a better job" of keeping up with the paperwork, Mahoney said.

Asked whether the reporting issues reflect poorly on Dillon as treasurer, Snyder spokeswoman Sara Wurfel said: "These funds have designated officials responsible for administering and filing.

"That said, my comment is that we understand that this issue is actively being addressed and resolved," Wurfel said. "That's obviously important."

She said Dillon has a long list of accomplishments, including achieving the lowest interest rate bond deal the state has ever received, having a transaction selected as bond deal of the year, improving the state's credit rating outlooks, and creating the Office of Fiscal Responsibility to help financially struggling local governments before they reach a crisis level.

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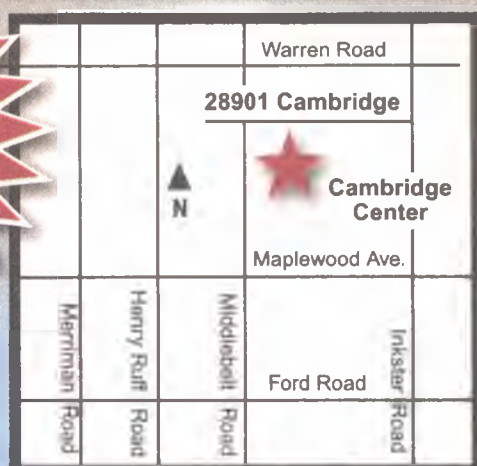
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Get an 'A' in personality for back to school

Parents, students stocking up for new year

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

School days, school days, dear old slap bracelet ruler days.

Or gamer calculators, high-heel tape dispensers, patterned duct tape or chandeliers for the locker days.

Back to school 2013 offers up plenty of new and fashionable products to go along with the usual notebooks and binders and pens – but even those have a colorful spin.

Greg Jackson, general merchandise line leader of the Meijer store in Livonia, says not only does his store do big business in crayons, glue and markers, but also Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle and Monster High backpacks.

Another big seller for either parents or college students are dry erase boards in a variety of shapes and sizes, Jackson said. “We cater to back to college, too,” he said.

At local Target stores, back to college is also big business with popular wire form lamps, chairs and stools and small space furniture to fit in dorm rooms, according to Mike Lash, an executive team leader of logistics at the Westland Target.

It's my space

At the high school level, items to decorate lockers are popular with teens who want to make that humdrum space their own – even with rugs and mini chandeliers. “If you want some stylish stuff, you can go all out,” said Whitney Spencer, executive team leader of logistics at the Westland Target.

“Things are going away from the school I remember,” Lash said.

Technology is also changing the face of school supplies.

Tablets and eReaders are the big thing, according to Joe Hirschmugl, a spokesman for Meijer's corporate office.

“Tablets are becoming like the new notebook,” he said.

This year, some of the hottest tech is the Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 Tablets, the New ACER Windows 8 tablet and Windows 8 laptops with “Touch” technology, according to Office Depot spokesperson Raquel Erwin.

At Target, USB drives, calculators (including graphing calculators) and mouse pads are also popular, Lash said.

Get personal

Personalization is huge this year, so many students are choosing to create a customized look. Office Depot offers the Crayola Creation, where kids can customize their own crayon/marker assortment, according to Erwin.

Personalization is also a hit at Target. Duct tape in patterns and colors or popular trademarks is used to personalize backpacks, notebooks and even clothes, Lash said.

Glitter notebooks, animal print pencil pouches, gamer calculators and paisley bind-

THINGS KIDS WANT FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

- » Sharpie retractable highlighters in assorted colors
- » Post-It flags, small size Post-It notes to mark textbook pages
- » Scotch brand high-heel tape dispenser
- » Trapper Keeper with customizable cover
- » Spiral-bound index cards
- » Designer duct tape, along with paper bags to cover textbooks
- » USB drives
- » Cute cellphone cases

source: familyeducation.com



The SanDisk 8GB USB Flash Drive costs \$9.99 at Target.

“We’re noticing for middle school kids, backpacks with matching accessories such as lunch boxes,” Lash said. Also popular are backpacks and pencil cases in Hello Kitty, Spider-man and Iron Man, Hirschmugl said.

High school kids like plaid and tie dye backpacks, Lash said.

And those slap bracelet rulers, which are bracelets that can be stretched out to be used as a ruler, along with lion, monkey or zebra shaped lunch boxes and Lego folders, notebooks and pencil cases are also on kids’ lists for back to school.

Local store managers say they are all stocked up for the rush. “A lot of customers are last-minute shoppers, as with any holiday,” Jackson said.

Madonna offers course to become a court interpreter

Madonna University in Livonia will host an open house 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, for those interested in learning more about its class that prepares Americans fluent in Spanish for careers as certified interpreters for the Michigan Court System.

Offered through the Office of Continuing Education, the class provides the necessary training for students to take the state exam to be certified.

Since 2009, 36 students have taken the course and gone on to work in the court system and in area hospitals, where interpreters are in demand.

This 13-week course,

taught by Michigan State Court Certified Interpreter Evelyn Villarruel, begins Sept. 19. Villarruel prepares students to successfully pass the written part of the exam (with an 80 percent or higher), after which they are invited to take the oral portion, which includes Sight Translation, Consecutive Interpreting and Simultaneous Interpreting.

“Although Michigan’s economy is down, we continue to see job postings for interpreters, both in the legal and the medical fields,” Villarruel said.

An interpreter since 2005, she works in district and circuit courts in Wayne, Oakland, Washten-

naw and Livingston counties and is an interpreter trainer for Oakland County.

Villarruel said the pay scale for interpreters depends on training and certification and can range between \$25 and \$75 per hour.

Madonna’s court interpreter class costs \$499 and meets 7-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Students must demonstrate fluency in Spanish upon enrolling.

Madonna is at 36600 Schoolcraft Road. The open house will be held in Room 1310.

To RSVP for the open house, email jureel@madonna.edu or call 734-432-5804.

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Meissen eager to begin new role



According to Dr. Michael Meissen, new superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, athletics are an important extension of the classroom. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New P-CCS superintendent ready to tackle athletic issues head-on as 2013-14 school year looms

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There's a new team in town to join the Chiefs, Wildcats and Rocks. It's "Team Meissen," as new Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen — himself a high school and college football player — jumps into the "huddle" with teachers, students, coaches and parents. The longtime principal of LaFollette High School in Madison, Wisc., is thrilled to be here. He also knows Michigan is as much of a football hotbed as Wisconsin. To that end, he is fully aware that Plymouth and Salem will be playing in the annual "Black and Blue" game the opening night of the high school football season, Thursday, Aug. 29. He knows Canton also will be kicking the season off that evening at the Park, over at the junior varsity stadium. "It's 'Thursday Night Lights' and it's great that high school sports are beginning and it's fun and real important to what we do," Meissen said. "Both the boys and girls sports will kick into high gear here very soon and we're really excited about it because we've got great kids that do well.

"I'll be a cheerleader for all of them. They're all part of the team here. And that's the beauty of it. We're all on one team, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools."

DR. MICHAEL MEISSEN
P-CCS superintendent

"May the best Plymouth-Canton (district) team win."

Color blind

But to him, all three teams will be winners that night. "I'll be a cheerleader for all of them," he said. "They're all part of the team here. And that's the beauty of it. We're all on one team, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools." Meissen sees the entire picture coming into focus after just a short time at the helm. He recently talked about being a sports guy in a sports town, but also spoke at length about current issues confronting the district's athletics program. Those included seriously looking at whether each of the three high schools should have an athletic director (currently, two ADs handle the entire college-like campus), as well as why coaches seem to be on a hotter seat than

See MEISSEN, Page B3

Aces

Area golfers have been enjoying plenty of hole-in-one success recently at Fox Hills in Plymouth. Following is a list of golfers who sank their tee shots:

- » Tom Millar, 72, of Northville, used a 9-iron to ace the 128-yard No. 5 hole at the Woodlands course Aug. 8. He used a Titleist and scored 41.
- » John Yowell, 70, of Westland, used a Callaway Driver to ace the 163-yard No. 4 hole at the Strategic Fox course Aug. 4. He used a Noodle for his shot and finished with 75.
- » Tomoji Yamamoto, 61, of Rochester, used a 7-iron to ace the 141-yard No. 3 hole at the Woodlands course July 27. He used a Bridgestone and finished with a round of 87.
- » John F. Greacen, of Plymouth, used a 9-iron to ace the 102-yard No. 11 hole at the Strategic Fox course July 27. He used a Titleist and finished with a score of 64.
- » Janni Ruark, of Plymouth, used a 5-wood and Pinnacle ball to ace the 135-yard No. 6 hole at the Golden Fox course July 26 and scored 94 for the day.
- » Mike Piazza, 34, of Dexter, used a 4-iron and Titleist Pro VIX ball to ace the 193-yard No. 6 hole at the Golden Fox course July 24.
- » Mike Ulaszek, 43, of Livonia, used a 9-iron to ace the 149-yard No. 14 hole at the Golden Fox course July 17. He used a Titleist Pro V ball and scored 39.



Canton football players run through a spirited 'Hoot-and-Holler' drill during the first practice day with full pads. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Balconi Invite a good test

Eight-team soccer tourney Saturday

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Some might call the Gary Balconi Invitational an opportunity for varsity boys soccer teams to get in some glorified scrimmages before the start of another season.

Don't call it that to the coaches of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams. To them, the Balconi Invite combines tradition with key competitive tests against tough opponents.

This year's tournament is slated to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, with eight teams going at it simultaneously on four fields at the Park. Contests will take place at the varsity soccer field, turf field, varsity practice field and freshman field.

"Getting a chance to see other top teams really gives you a chance to see how talented your team can be or, in some cases, it can serve to be a gauge for the level that your teams need to reach to be very successful," said Salem first-year varsity coach Scott Duhl, a player for the Rocks back in the mid-1990s, when the Balconi launched as a four-team invite. "It's really a great way to start off the season."

Concurring was Canton's new coach, Mark Zemanski.

"I really like the idea of playing in the Balconi tournament before the season gets under way," Zemanski said. "We get to play against quality competition that we don't face in the KLAA regular season. This type of competition shows you what you need to work on as a team to get ready for the upcoming season."

In addition to Canton and Salem, Plymouth will again take part. Other squads on the docket include Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake

O&E men's golf sign-up

The O&E men's golf tournament, a 36-hole, two-day medal play event, will be Sunday, Sept. 1, at Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 W. Seven Mile Road, and Monday, Sept. 2, at Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20500 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Tee times start at 8 a.m. both days. The cost is \$95 for two days (power cart extra) with four different flights offered, including championship, first, senior (55-and-over) and junior (17-and-under).

You must have a current USGA Index to participate (maximum handicap of 20). There will be \$2,500 in guaranteed prizes, including both low gross and net winners. Entries, will close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24.

To download a registration form, visit golflivonia.com.

For pairings and starting times, call 248-476-4493 (Whispering Willows) or 248-471-3400 (Fox Creek).

Let's get crackin'

Sights and sounds of football's return fill the air at P-CEP

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The sounds of the season began in earnest Thursday.

On the opening day of full-pad workouts, Canton football players' shoulder pads were cracking.

The players also were "hooting and hollering" their way through the spirited, free-for-all 4-vs.-4 practice drill — and yelling encouragement amid whistle tweets.


"We're still working on putting our offense and defense in and just working on our basic drills to be able to execute those things," Chiefs varsity head coach Tim Baechler said. "On the first day of pads, the boys do a little 'Hoot-and-Holler' session,



Canton assistant football coach Dave Smilo (right) talks to a player about a practice drill Thursday. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO


See CAMP, Page B3

See INVITE, Page B4



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Team tops field at dodgeball regional

Vegas dream falls short

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Could what happens in Canton go to Vegas?

That almost was the case for members of 1 Time, winners of the recent Ultimate Dodgeball Qualifier at Sky Zone in Canton.

The team, thanks to topping a field of 20

teams Aug. 3, had a chance to compete for up to \$50,000 in prizes at the Ultimate Dodgeball Championship, Sept. 21-22 in Las Vegas, Nev.

But it was not to be. Sky Zone used the winning percentage of each team in regionals across the country to determine seven of the final eight teams going to Vegas. All of the teams who made the cut had a 100-percent win rate, while 1 Time owned one just under 80

percent

For the eighth Las Vegas qualifier, a social media contest took place on Facebook, where fans could vote for their favorite team, a Sky Zone spokesman noted.

He added that, in order to be in that Facebook contest, teams needed to have already won their local qualifier.

Still, what the team accomplished proved to be quite a rush.

With the victory, the team received a trophy that will be displayed at Sky Zone and each member collected a \$100 gift card.

Most Valuable Player Mike Bohnett came away with a one-night golf spree at Grand Traverse Resort.

Potential trips and prizes are great, but so is the sport itself, according to 1 Time captain Rick Lape of Tecumseh.

"I personally got into Extreme Dodgeball for the excitement, the adrenaline rush and the competitive nature of it," Lape said. "A lot of people can throw, catch and dodge, but there is a lot more to it."



Members of Ultimate Dodgeball regional champion 1 Time are (from left) Mike Bohnett, Rick Holtz, Rick Lape, T.J. Juarez, Tommy Freudenberg and Chad Wonderly.



Throwing front-to-back during the recent Ultimate Dodgeball Qualifier at Sky Zone in Canton are Mike Bohnett, Rick Holtz and T.J. Juarez.

Lape, along with Bohnett, Rick Holtz, T.J. Juarez, Tommy Freudenberg and Chad Wonderly, rolled through early round-robin action at Sky Zone.

They combined efforts to knock off the other four teams in pool play, having one of the top eight records following the round-robins (there were four group-

ings of five teams).

Then it was on to "one-and-done" single elimination and 1 Time came through yet again, despite it being the first tourney the team ever competed in on trampolines.

"Communicating as a team is probably the biggest asset," Lape said. "We have played court dodgeball for about three

years in rec leagues and charity events.

"However, (Aug. 3) was the first time for any of us on trampolines."

Another plus is the team is a tight-knit group of guys from southeast Michigan. Four players hail from Tecumseh, with one player each from Britton and Saline.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

97TH MICHIGAN WOMEN'S AMATEUR

Plymouth alum Thompson just misses Final Four

The Final Four field at the 97th Michigan Women's Amateur at Walnut Hills Country Club nearly included a recent Plymouth High School graduate.

Matchups for Friday's Final Four were set after Thursday's second and third rounds of match play.

Aya Johnson (Muskegon) was scheduled to meet Christine Meier

(Rochester Hills), while Jennifer Elsholz (Grand Rapids) was to square off against Hailey Hrynewich (Muskegon).

Hrynewich's third-round match versus Plymouth grad Sarah Thompson (Canton) went to 19 holes. Hrynewich said she never got flustered and just patiently waited for Thompson to make a mistake.

"She was 1-up for a

few holes on the back nine," Hrynewich said. "I knew I needed to beat her on 18 and I did it with a good par. Then on 19, I got on the green and she didn't."

Meier also had a long day of golf Thursday, as both of her matches went extra holes. Her morning match against Michigan State University teammate Liz Nagle went 19 holes and her afternoon match against future Spartan Jacqueline Setas (East Lansing) went 20 holes.

"I've gone extra holes before in this tournament, but never twice in one day," Meier said. "I am going home and going to bed now!"

Meier said both matches were very tough and that all three golfers were playing very, very well.

"The first match with Liz was mentally draining because we were both playing well and



Sarah Thompson putts during Thursday match play.

knew it was going to take birdies to win," Meier said. "Then to go against Jackie, who was playing well, it was tough. I had two tough matches today."

It is also the first time in match play for Elsholz, who admitted she was more than a little nervous in the first round of the day.

"When I was going into my second match,

my dad pointed out that I was in the top eight, which is pretty cool, and told me just to go out and have fun," Elsholz said. "So that's what I did. But I think I almost gave my mom a heart attack in the first match."

Johnson credited her stellar short game for propelling her to victory in both of her matches.

"My putter was on fire," Johnson said. "And

I chipped in twice (Thursday), so I feel like the short game overall is finally there."

A teammate of Thompson's with the 2012 Division 1 state champion Wildcats, Kelsey Murphy, was defeated in the second round by Ella Pandy (Grosse Pointe Farms). The 97th Michigan Women's Amateur is sponsored by Palace Sports & Entertainment.

Senior Moments capture bronze at national women's softball tournament

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Members of the Senior Moments 55-plus women's softball team proved last month in Cleveland that you're as young as you feel - and field.

Competing in the National Senior Games against 15 other high-achieving 55-and-older women's softball teams, the Moments showed they can field, hit and

pitch with the best of them as they earned a bronze medal in the tournament's AAA division.

Several Observerland-area women played pivotal roles for the Moments, including Redford's Kim Baldwin, Livonia's Peggy Backus, Canton's Nancy Eggenberger, Westland's Sharon Vreeland, Farmington Hills' Ellen Rieth and Farmington residents Diane Brady, Marsha Crosby and Alice Duffy.

"We all play with and against each other in travel leagues around the Detroit area," said Baldwin, who has been competing in high-level softball leagues for several years.

"The team from Farmington wanted to enter the Michigan Olympic

Games, but they didn't have enough players, so they asked players from other teams to join them. After we won that, we decided to play in the national tournament.

"It was a fun experience. Some of the ladies on the team were first-time players and others have been playing travel softball for a while. It was a good mix."

After earning a gold medal in the Michigan tournament, the Moments carried a ton of momentum into Cleveland.

On July 22, they won their first three pool-play games over teams from California, Arizona and North Carolina before falling to the Maryland Roadrunners, who went on to capture the gold

medal.

One day after playing four games - which is a lot for a 25-and-under team - the Moments dropped a medal-round game against the California Spirit.

Proving she can never get enough softball, Baldwin played in a national senior tournament in Riley, N.C., a week after the NSG event.

In addition to the Observerland-area players, the team included Milan's Jenny Criss, Oxford's Sue Johnson and Detroit residents Sonequa "Sneaky" Daniels, Denesia Jackson, Cheryl Ollison, Tresa Robinson, Carol Rogers, Toni Simpson, Janice Strozier and Lou Sykes.

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To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates in 2013: August 20, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, November 12 and December 10.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

Special meetings should be scheduled for Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted.

Publish: August 18, 2013
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CANINE WITH CANCER CARRIES ON PET THERAPY WORK

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Chet, 6, and Talon, 8, welcome customers to Amazing Pet Grooming in Garden City with wagging tails and grins.

Sometimes, they drop their toys at a visitor's feet. Or open the gate to the lobby with their noses and hunker down at a client's side.

The two golden retrievers, who are pet therapy dogs, are lovable fixtures at the shop on Ford Road near Merriman, owned by their "mom" Lisa Jacques.

"My regulars have known them since they were babies," Jacques said, during an interview last week at the shop. "There is not a day they aren't here except Saturday, because it's so busy for us. If I'm working on a customer's dog, they'll come out (to the lobby) and be with the people. The customers touch them and play with them."

These days, her clients also donate toward Chet's medical treatment. Jacques' employee, Tera Howard, placed a collection jar in the shop and the lobby is decorated with bone-shaped signs sporting names of contributors. Chet was diagnosed with lymphoma last October and takes chemotherapy treatment at the Animal Cancer & Imaging Center in Canton.

Jacques is grateful for her customers' financial support and kind words and for the care Chet receives at the center.

"They ask me every time they come in how he's doing," she said. "It's nice that people are so thoughtful. People put in a dollar or two and anything helps. I put it toward our bill."

Costly care

Jacques figures she and her husband, Frank, have spent

approximately \$10,000 on Chet's treatment and care since he was diagnosed.

"When he first started, he went once a week for chemo and in February, ended his treatment. He was in remission but came out of it. It's tough, he goes in and out of remission," she said. "Each chemo is different. The chemo we're doing now is a longer chemo, a drip. It's almost \$700 (per session) and there is one every three weeks."

Previous weekly treatments cost \$300-\$600, Jacques said. They also pay for blood work done between each chemo session. Talon accompanies Chet to every treatment as a "support" dog.

Jacques has owned five golden retrievers and lost two of them to cancer. In both cases, the prognosis wasn't good and the dogs were put down shortly after diagnosis.

"I didn't go through anything then, like I'm going through now. It has taken a toll on us physically, financially and mentally."

She said they continue to do everything they can for Chet because he seems to thrive in spite of the cancer.

"He runs, plays and swims. He is being himself. If he was sick all the time and lethargic and couldn't be Chet, we wouldn't do this. He is living a full life. He's young and could still have another seven years."

Pet therapy

Jacques admits she spoils her dogs. They go "everywhere" with the couple, including on vacation to "grandma's and grandpa's" house in Traverse City. They have their own chairs at home and sleep on their owners' bed. Jacques' husband takes them to the park on weekends and as a couple, they take the dogs twice



Lisa Jacques adjusts Chet's pet therapy bandana. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

monthly to Oakwood Heritage Hospital in Taylor with Pet-a-Pet, the pet therapy organization. They also visit seniors at St. Christopher Church in Detroit.

"They are a very dedicated couple and both their dogs do pet therapy with us. I think it helps the patients considerably knowing Chet is going through this," said Mary Chamberlain, Pet-a-Pet's facility coordinator for Heritage Hospital. "They know the dog is going through life-threatening issues of his own and yet he takes time to see them and makes people happy."

"He wags his tail and shows how happy he is to be there," Chamberlain said, adding "and (chemo) is not an easy treat-



Tera Howard, a groomer at Amazing Pet Grooming in Garden City, came up with the donation jar to help pay for Chet's chemotherapy.

See THERAPY, Page B6

Ford

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WHO'S YOUR TIGER?

Contest is open to kids up to 18 years old.



Chet (left) and Talon work as pet therapy dogs and greet customers at Amazing Pet Grooming in Garden City. Talon, also accompanies Chet to his chemotherapy treatments. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THERAPY

Continued from Page B5

ment.”

Chamberlain said Chet has missed his therapy visits just once since he was diagnosed.

As pet therapy dogs, Chet and Talon mostly visit the rehab unit at the hospital, where they stand at bedsides and welcome pats

and strokes from patients.

Jacques said Chet's vets agree that it's a good idea to keep him engaged and active. She said pet therapy also gives the couple a way to "give back" to others.

"We struggle in our life, but we've had good fortune. We're healthy and have great friends and family. There are a lot of people who don't have that. They are lonely and it makes us happy

to bring our dogs and give someone a smile," she said. "I've always done pet therapy and I love it. It's therapy to me. I get to see my friends and the dogs get to see their friends. It's social and everyone has the same goal — to make someone else's day."

Contact Jacques by calling the shop at 734-422-2660.

Well, here comes another front-loader story

Recently, Ruth Spencer of WDIV-TV (Channel 4) did a story about the ongoing class action suit against the Whirlpool Corp. regarding the mold and odor issue with its front-load washing machines. This was the second time that Spencer has tackled the problem, having been through this herself some five years ago, at which time she reported to her viewing audience. She also did a radio interview with me, at which time she said, "I will load this washer on a flatbed truck and drive to Benton Harbor and dump it on the front lawn of Whirlpool headquarters." I assume that Whirlpool took care of this consumer.

Some years ago, when the concept of the front-load washer was first being introduced as the energy saver of tomorrow, I took issue and wrote about it in my columns several times. I wrote, "You can't wash your hands properly in a tea cup of water and you can't wash clothes using eight gallons of water. This washer will have problems with odors because it doesn't drain off all the water when it's done."

The result of making a statement like that years ago has brought forth a ton of comments from homeowners. I would wager that more than 2,000 owners of the front-load machines have complained directly to me about how much they hate their front-loaders. Some have even given them away and purchased top-loaders. One guy even bought a 20-year-old GE to replace his 4-year-old washer. The stories are many and nine out of 10 are on the very negative side. Once in a while, I hear from someone who loves their front-loader and I say, God bless her.

A little history lesson here — the U.S. Department of Energy got involved and issued mandates on energy consumption to the appliance industry. The front-load concept was going strong in European countries and Maytag used the engineers from other countries to develop a product for use in the



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

U.S.A.

In the first few years of production by Maytag, a recall was announced to solve the mold and odor problem on several million of the front-loaders already being used by people who had made the expensive purchase. Maytag was purchased by Whirlpool, which paid a lot of money for this existing problem.

Today, a class action suit is going on against Whirlpool and other manufacturers. It is apparent that there is a defect in the manufacturing process. In the end, we will know who the guilty parties are. It is my belief and that of many other service technicians that the Maytag washer of old was the best machine ever made. Many of the old top-loaders are still in use today and I know of one that lasted 54 years. Please don't ever think that the appliance retailers wouldn't love to have this type of quality once again on their sales floors.

It used to be very easy to make friends with a retail customer and not so easy to do today. Let me give you a quote from Fred Louis Maytag, the first president of Maytag back in the very early 20th century: "A grave responsibility rests upon us in respecting the public's confidence. We must maintain the quality of our products in every respect. We must give them more because they expect more." Not to make light of this, I must say the Mr. Maytag must be rolling in his grave.

For those of you who believe you have a mold and odor issue with your front-loader, you can contact the legal firm of Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein, based in Nashville, Tenn. The telephone number is 800-254-2660.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. each Saturday on WAAM-AM (1600). You can email him at appldr@twmi.rr.com.

Fall fashion show benefits historic house

Get a look at new fall clothing at the 44th annual Fall Fashion Show To Benefit the Longacre House, noon Thursday, Sept. 26, at Glen Oaks Country Club, 30500 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Models will wear fashions from The Clothing Cover in Milford and The Gap Orchard Place and sport hairstyles by The Studio for Hair in Farmington Hills.

Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. for a shopping boutique, with the luncheon and fashion show set for noon.

Proceeds from the event will go toward restoration and upkeep of the historic Longacre House, an elegant Georgian-style mansion acquired by the City of Farmington Hills in 2006.

Extensive renovations have been made to the home, which was originally built in 1869.

The Longacre House is a popular venue for weddings, showers, special events, and programs such as Victorian teas, cooking shows, and music lessons.

Tickets to the Fall Fashion

Show To Benefit the Longacre House are \$40. Call 248-477-8404 or mail checks made out to "Friends of the Parks" to the Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

The fashion show is sponsored by Friends of the Parks, a nonprofit community service organization that sponsors projects that promote and enhance the City of Farmington Hills park system. To view a slide show or virtual "mini-tour" of the Longacre House, go to www.longacrehouse.org.

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To your health: Student, family show there's life after diabetes diagnosis

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Jeff Hewlett, 19, of Novi was diagnosed at age 4 with Type 1 diabetes.

"It was certainly a shock at first," said Hewlett, now a sophomore at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and a Northville High School graduate. "It certainly never slowed down anything I did."

He grew up with brother Joey, 17, a Northville High senior, and parents Rich and the late Chris Hewlett. Chris died in 2012 following a lengthy battle with ovarian cancer.

The family decided in the late 1990s, when Jeff was diagnosed, to do fundraising for JDRF (formerly the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation). This year's golf outing, their fifth, raised some \$65,000, with a total of more than \$280,000 raised by the outings.

The family is in the "Noville" area, where people have a Novi mailing address, but children attend Northville schools. "At that time, we didn't have much experience with Type 1," Rich recalled of his son's diagnosis.

They got involved with Jackson friends in the JDRF Western Michigan Chapter, with a walk that included former University of Michigan football coaches Bo Schembechler and Lloyd Carr. Rich Hewlett played under Schembechler from 1979-83.

They later put together



University of Michigan football coach Brady Hoke (left) introduces Rich and Jeff Hewlett during a fundraiser.

er their own team for an Ann Arbor fundraiser, rapidly becoming the top team. In 2006-07, they were asked about hosting an event for the U-M Comprehensive Diabetes Center, where Jeff gets his care.

"There was a real interest in getting those two organizations more closely aligned," said Rich, an attorney with the Grand Rapids-based Varnum law firm. Varnum has been the presenting sponsor for their golf outing the last three times.

The family appreci-

ates support of the Northville-Noville community. Rich serves on the JDRF board for southeast Michigan.

They transferred Jeff's care to U-M in adult endocrinology and the younger Hewlett is in an upcoming clinical trial there.

The study is funded by the JDRF and led by Dr. Massimo Pietropaolo of U-M. Dr. Max, as he's called, is studying the pancreas in those with long-term diabetes, seeing if it can be stimulated to produce insulin and cut down on injections.

"I've always been comfortable with the injections," said Jeff, who generally gives himself four a day. He also checks his blood sugar with a finger prick.

"It's just something that has been an added aspect of my life," added Jeff, who played high school football and basketball. "It hasn't really changed anything for me."

He volunteered a couple of summers back at U-M and now works in a renal pathology lab there, a job he'll con-

tinue part time when school resumes. Jeff is taking mostly U-M prerequisites now, not yet decided on a major.

"It's something we are very personally vested in," he said, with his father agreeing they like reaching out to others who don't have their resources.

The Hewletts have a website, www.swingtocure.com, on their efforts. They also recommend the JDRF website, www.jdrf.org, especially for those newly diagnosed.

"We do feel blessed," Rich said. "We are in a situation where we can hopefully show there are ways to live with it."

Jeff's always been a great ambassador." Their supporters include U-M coach Brady Hoke, former coach Carr, his former teammates, Jeff's coaches and teachers, Rich's clients, friends and family. They had to skip the golf outing one year, due to Chris' illness and the economy.

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Dr. Packey
Family Medicine

For most parents, childhood vaccines can be both a source of reassurance and anxiety. Dr. Nicholas Packey, of the Garden City Hospital Center for Family Medicine, explains how vaccines provide invaluable protection with little risk for side effects.

Q: Why should I have my child immunized if all the other kids in school are immunized?

A: It is true that a single child's chance of catching a disease is low if everyone else is immunized. But your child is also exposed to people other than just those in school. And if one person thinks about skipping vaccines, chances are others are thinking the same thing. Each child who isn't immunized gives these highly contagious diseases more chance to spread.

Q: Do immunizations cause autism?

A: Numerous studies have found no link between vaccines and autism. Likewise, a groundbreaking report from the Institute of Medicine found that thimerosal, an organic mercury compound used as a preservative in vaccines since the 1930s, does not cause autism. Still, some parents have opted not to have their children immunized, putting them at great risk of contracting deadly diseases.

The Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, especially, has come under fire despite many scientific reports indicating that there's no clear evidence linking the vaccine to autism. In fact, in 2004 a long-disputed 1998 study that suggested a possible link between autism and the MMR vaccine was retracted and rejected by all major health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization.

Q: Are there dangerous side effects or reactions to childhood vaccines?

A: Fortunately, severe side effects or reactions to vaccines are few and rare. The biggest concern is anaphylaxis, an allergic reaction that can cause an itchy rash, throat swelling, and low blood pressure. Depending on the vaccine, side effects such as anaphylaxis can occur in 1 out of several hundred thousand, to 1 in a million vaccines.

Q: Is it dangerous for children to have so many vaccines administered at once?

A: Available scientific data shows that simultaneous vaccination with multiple vaccines has no adverse effects on the normal childhood immune system. A number of studies have been conducted, and have shown that recommended vaccines are as effective in combination as they are individually, and such combinations carry no greater risk for adverse side effects. There is no evidence to suggest the recommended childhood vaccines overload the immune system.

Join Garden City Hospital every month at Westland Mall, for our wellness lecture series. At 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month, Garden City Hospital provides helpful and in depth information on a variety of issues that impact our health every day. The next lecture, "Children & Bullying," is Saturday, September 14.

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PER MONTH **\$1,222 Cash Due at Signing**
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(1) Not all customers qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low-mileage lease (10,500 miles). Special lease rates are for eligible A/Z Plan lessees. Some payments higher, some lower. Residency restrictions apply. Payments include \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash, with the exception of Focus, for RCL/RCO customers who currently lease a Ford product and lease again through Ford Credit. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 9/30/13 with the exception of the F-150 which ends 9/3/13. Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. (2) 2013 Fusion SE FWD 2.5L Duratec I-4 engine EPA estimated rating of 22 city/34 highway/26 combined MPG; 2013 Focus SE FWD 2.0L Ti-VCT direct-injection I-4 engine EPA estimated rating of 26 city/36 hwy/30 combined MPG; 2013 Edge SE FWD 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine EPA estimated rating of 19 city/27 hwy/22 combined MPG; 2013 Focus SE FWD 1.6L EcoBoost I-4 engine EPA estimated rating of 23 city/33 hwy/26 combined MPG; 2013 Explorer XLT FWD 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine EPA estimated rating of 17 city/24 hwy/20 combined MPG; 2013 Taurus SEL FWD 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine EPA estimated rating of 18 city/25 hwy/20 combined MPG. Actual mileages will vary. (3) Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit financing. 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed regardless of down payment. Excludes Fusion Energi and Fusion Hybrid. Other exclusions may apply. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 9/30/13 with the exception of the F-150 which ends 9/3/13. (4) The \$1,500 Fusion Customer Cash includes \$1,000 customer cash and \$500 Ford Motor Credit cash; the \$3,500 Focus customer cash (valid only on 5-door, manual transmission) includes \$1,500 customer cash, \$1,000 Retail Bonus Cash, \$500 Open Bonus Cash and \$500 Ford Motor Credit cash; the \$3,000 Edge Customer Cash includes \$1,500 customer cash, \$1,000 retail bonus cash and \$500 Ford Motor Credit cash; the \$2,250 Escape customer cash includes \$500 customer cash, \$750 Ford Motor Credit cash and \$1,000 Retail Bonus Cash; the \$5,500 Taurus customer cash includes \$3,250 customer cash, \$1,000 retail bonus cash and \$1,250 Ford Motor Credit cash; and the \$4,250 Flex customer cash includes \$2,000 customer cash, \$1,000 retail bonus cash and \$1,250 Ford Motor Credit cash. (5) Total cash savings includes \$2,500 Customer Cash, \$1,000 Ford Motor Credit Cash, \$500 5.0L Cash, \$500 XLT Retail Bonus Cash, \$1,000 Retail Bonus Cash, \$1,750 in Trade Assist (excludes STX) and \$1,750 XLT Discount Package. \$9,000 in total savings only valid on XLT 5.0L. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 9/3/13. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown in order: 2013 Fusion Titanium, 2013 Focus ST, 2013 Edge Limited, 2013 Escape Titanium, 2013 Explorer Sport, 2013 Taurus SHO, 2013 F-150 Super Cab and 2013 Flex Limited. The vehicles in these images do not represent the advertised lease offers.

Car Report

Advertising Feature

Mazda plans to drive new Mazda6 top of midsize heap



By Dale Buss

Because it's a scrappy brand, Mazda has held on in the U.S. market without the vehicles or marketing muscle to pose a serious threat to Toyota's and Honda's dominance of the small-car market over the last few decades.

But increasingly, Mazda does have the cars to compete in the hottest segments, like the latest version of the CX-5 SUV and, now, the all-new Mazda6 mid-size sedan. And Mazda's marketing has wisely moved beyond the "zoom-zoom" mantra to a more differentiated pitch based on its SkyActiv sub-brand of "light-weighting" technologies and nameplate-centric campaigns that take advantage of the better vehicles.

"We realized long ago that we're not going to be able to out-shout any of our big competitors, so we have to be more clever than they are, in unique and different ways," Jeremy Barnes, Mazda's director of PR and brand experience in the U.S., told me. "Our biggest challenge as a brand is not that people think poorly of our brand but that they don't think immediately of us."

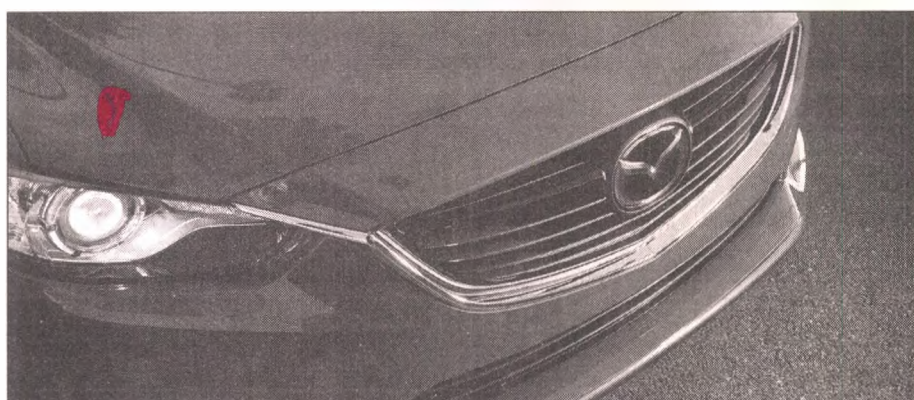
This problem has become mostly a marketing challenge, because Mazda vehicles themselves sure are taking on their share of the responsibility for a turnaround. The new Mazda6 touts highly acclaimed new styling and the product line's fullest expression yet of SkyActiv technologies such as a more fuel-efficient engine and transmission and lightweight new materials and components.

In fact, the car is completely new from the ground up, Barnes said, and is entirely a Mazda creation; the Mazda6 it replaces was a joint product of Mazda and its erstwhile partner, Ford.

The midsize sedan represents a huge departure from the old model, the second vehicle to flow from an engineering program that Mazda launched after the alliance with Ford ended in 2010. Mazda executives invested heavily in new engines and transmissions and lightweight materials under SkyActiv.

Mazda6 combines high fuel economy with a sportiness that separates the car, and the brand, from other Japanese companies' compact offerings and holds up well against other competitors including a redesigned Ford Fusion, Hyundai Sonata, Kia Optima and Volkswagen Passat.

The interior of the car already has won awards for its appearance and the use of quality materials. But some reviewers have complained about cargo space and interior storage niches being too small and about a 5.8-inch touch screen, which is smaller and less sensitive to the touch than some competitors'.



The just-launched new 2014 Mazda6 provides worthy competition in the compact segment.

Interestingly, Mazda also plans to take the plunge into clean-diesel technology with a new diesel engine that will be available on the Mazda6 later this year. This will provide yet another "green" way that Mazda can differentiate its worthy new compact from the competition.

The other early product of Mazda's go-it-alone engineering is the CX-5, a new version of the compact SUV that just ranked highest of any nameplate in the segment in the new J.D. Power study of shopper appeal.

For Mazda6, the brand launched its "Take6 Ride and Drive Program" sequentially in 15 major U.S. cities (though not Detroit) beginning this month in Seattle and ending in November. The idea of this "experiential" initiative is for Mazda representatives to partner with restaurants where the brand's target Millennial demographic just happens to be waiting for a table. These "brand ambassadors" offer to take

up just six minutes of their idle time with a quick pitch about, and a test drive of, the Mazda6—which conveniently is sitting at the curb. Mazda offers gift cards or free dessert at the restaurant as a lure.

"They'll have gone out for dinner, and our goal is to catch these people where they are rather than making them go where the car is," like a dealership, Barnes said. "We're trying to drive interest, get people behind the wheel of the Mazda6, understand what makes it unique and different — and do it in a way that's comfortable."

"It's an opportunity for them to see that the car does drive wonderfully. And when they're in the market to go shopping for a new car, if they think of putting Mazda6 on their shopping list, then we've done our job."

As a final reward for going along in Take6, Mazda gives each diner a Mazda6-branded spice grinder. "It's because food is typically a passion point for our kind of customers," Barnes explained. "The Mazda logo will stare at you. It's another memory device for when you're buying your next car."



The CX-5 was the first new vehicle launched under the SkyActiv umbrella.

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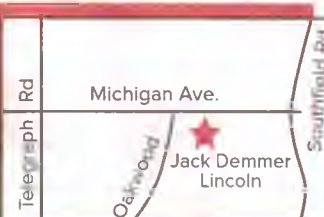


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EPA-estimated rating of
20 city / 33 highway MPG

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ZERO DOWN and \$471
Cash Due at Signing,
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\$303*

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EPA-estimated rating of
19 city / 29 highway MPG

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security deposit waived.

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EPA-estimated rating of
22 city / 34 highway MPG

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\$306*

With lease renewal
EPA-estimated rating of
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ZERO DOWN and \$627
Cash Due at Signing,
security deposit waived.

4 at this price
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Financing for 60 months

or receive \$2,000 in Customer Cash!



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\$240*

With lease renewal
EPA-estimated rating of
27 city / 37 highway MPG

24 months for current
A/Z plan leases with
ZERO DOWN and \$448
Cash Due at Signing,
security deposit waived.

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172 available

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Financing for 60 months

or receive \$2000 in Customer Cash!



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\$330*

With lease renewal
EPA-estimated rating of
17 city / 24 highway MPG

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A/Z plan leases with
ZERO DOWN and \$563
Cash Due at Signing,
security deposit waived.

3 at this price
91 available

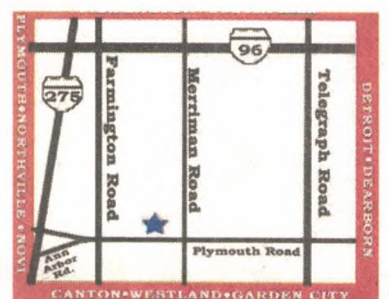
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